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ABSTRACT

Since the early 1960s, the black family has been characterized as pathological. This six-part collection of 18 research studies presents alternative approaches to understanding the special characteristics of black families. Part I, "Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives," comprises a comparison of the pioneering work of W. E. B. Du Bois and E. Franklin Frazier. Part II, "Ecological Perspectives," comprises four studies that examine the linkages within the black community among the family and the church, hospitals, housing, and economic influences. Part III, "Family Form and Functioning," comprises four studies that examine the effects of the following exogenous and endogenous factors: (1) parental values; (2) sickle cell anemia; (3) gender differences; and (4) the declining male to female ratio. Part IV, "Health Outcomes and Economic Resources," comprises three studies that examine resources used by families to cope with stress. Part V, "Intracultural Perspectives," comprises three studies that examine the similarities and differences among families in St. Vincent, Nigeria, and among West Indians in the United States. Part VI, "Policy and Social Service Delivery Systems," comprises three studies that examine how theory, research, and substantive issues translate into intervention policies. A concluding section reviews the contents of the collection and relates them to the reconceptualization of black families. Four figures and 34 tables of statistical data are included. Each study also includes a list of references. (FMW)

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